

SUNDAY READING.

A Sermon Preached by Rev. W. E. Williams, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Feb. 2, 1888, and Published by Request.

SUPERNATURAL IN RELIGION.

"For it is the power of God unto Salvation."—Romans 1:16.

What is this power? We shall answer first, negatively. By power here is not meant civil power, as wielded by the rulers of this world.

History informs us that on several occasions, numerous armies have been sent forth to compel the nations into their views of Christianity. And we know that persecutions, imprisonments, and martyrdoms, have been employed as a power to spread what they called religion, and they represented that as the power of God. But it never succeeded. The world was not made better by such a policy, but rather worse. And when the war was removed from the field of blood to the pulpit; when ministers would spend their Sabbath hours in showing up some imaginary or real weakness in the creed of some other church, there was but little good accomplished.

This has come to be acknowledged as a truth on all hands. And the man now who devotes his hour for preaching, to looking up old questions of controversy, and dealing a blow at this church and that, becomes an object of pity to the enlightened and educated portion of his hearers. Such messages are unwelcome in all of the intellectual congregations of the land. And it is becoming a difficult thing for such ministers to find a place for themselves in the world. They are very much like old doctors who continue to bleed, blister, and salivate. The people are afraid of them.

The church and the world have caught the idea that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God." The Gospel is spiritual, and its propagation requires spiritual means. Mere human force cannot do it.

Again, by "power" is not meant the mere power of human eloquence, though this is sometimes productive of very strong impressions, and in many cases found to be almost irresistible. We know that eloquence, when it is artificial and natural. The artificial eloquence of the age consists chiefly in a felicitous selection of terms, and an elegant construction of sentences, delivered with rhetorical effect. St. Paul declined such eloquence in his ministry to the polite and voluptuous citizens of Corinth.

"And my speech," he says, "was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." There is also a natural eloquence, which is the effect of an ardent mind, deeply impressed with the truth and importance of what is delivered. Such was Paul's address to Felix and King Agrippa. They were unable to withstand the argumentative appeals, and the pathetic tenderness of the speaker, though the impression was only superficial and transient. But it is not in the power of eloquence, however enchanting; and though it may invest the doctrines of Christianity with all the charms, and with all the terrors of truth and righteousness, to bring one sinner to God. Agrippa trembled and turned away. Agrippa was convicted, but not persuaded to become a Christian.

It is not merely the power of truth itself, though this often produces a strong effect. "By the power of truth we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." There is an Omnipotence in truth which cannot be resisted; the conscience of men are made to echo to the Supreme authority. Though an unwelcome visitor, truth shines into the conscience, silences objections, and gives a temporary triumph, producing sometimes confessions and humiliations. These effects are frequently mistaken for repentance and faith in Jesus. Pharaoh could not deny the divinity of the Mission of Moses and Aaron. Saul acknowledged that David was more righteous than himself. But both continued to persecute. Many of Christ's hearers were convinced of his Messiahship by witnessing his miracles, while enmity, and fear, and carnal policy prevented their devotedness to Him. Many hear the Gospel, believe its truth and importance, but are like "a man beholding his face in a glass"—they go away and straightway forget what manner of men they are. There must be something behind all this, to give it energy; it needs to make it effective. God's power must accompany the truth. It must come in the demonstration of the Spirit. God must give the increase.

God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, must shine into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus. And thus at the beginning the supernatural was called into requisition in the working of miracles, thereby conforming the truth of Christianity. It was necessary after the ascension of Christ to accompany the preaching of the Gospel with the supernatural forces which His Divine Authority possessed to convince men of his divine mission through all time. Thus we are brought to recognize the fact that God works by His will in the world, no less than He possesses His essence as distinct from it; that He is actually and vitally present in it, no less than He is personally free from it. But we are told by modern skeptics that the idea of the supernatural is an outgrowth upon the degree of independent life due to the world; that it is a violation of the laws of nature; a kind of breach in that "fixed order" on which the existence of the world rests; that "order" which coheres so closely that the slightest derangement would occasion confusion; or as Strauss expresses it, "would produce a rent in the world."

But we cannot admit that in the whole of creation, there exists, and always has existed, a fixed and universally binding connection between cause and effect. Where is the naturalist who could demonstrate its existence? Such a person would be a living wonder. The truth is, this "chain" of which we hear so much, in reality often enough breaks off in nature's own hand. "Rents" exist in the very nature of creation. We do not believe in the effects of matter, but in the creation of the world by God, the connecting chain is broken off at the very beginning—from the laws of the created world, the Genesis of creation can never be deduced. The very existence of the world, then, is supernatural, as well as the existence of God himself. But this "connecting chain" is broken off again with events which natural science never can explain from the laws and forces known to us. To illustrate this, let us take the first organism originate? Will some scientist tell us? Natural science has demonstrated that life did not always exist

upon the earth. Long ago it was maintained that we could easily indicate the point of time when life began. Some assume that life has existed from eternity, but natural science proves to the contrary since at a certain period the earth's temperature was such that no organic life could exist, and therefore it must have had a beginning. Besides this, natural science, asserts that it is impossible to demonstrate the natural "evolution theory" of organic life from inorganic matter. Only a supernatural interruption of the natural laws can form the living organism out of lifeless matter. And how did spirit enter the world? How man, with the law of conscience which transcends all the laws of nature? With him, too, the chain breaks off, and happily for some of us, before it gets back to Darwin's monkey! Thus we see that there are many rents in the connection of nature which it is claimed is perfect; rents which can only be filled up by the supernatural power of the great God.

And do not a multitude of analogies go to show that God can interfere supernaturally at any time in all natural existence? But we must discriminate between miracles in the absolute sense of the word, which exclude all mediation of the creature, and those which are accomplished through an enhancement of the forces of nature. To the first belong the conception of Christ, and the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Here we have a process similar to the creation of the world. God by His own activity places something in nature which did not exist there before; what He once did for the universe, He is surely able to do for an individual part of it. But the forces of nature are not partakers in this immediate act of God. The supernatural lies beyond the laws of nature. They merely receive the product of infinite power. When the product of infinite power is brought into the world, it becomes subject to the laws of nature. We may illustrate this thought in this way: You graft a scion upon a wild stock. The scion is something foreign to the wild stock, but is dependent for its future existence upon all the conditions of that nature. So Christ is the noble scion grafted upon the human stock; not by the will of man, but through a creative act of God. But the thought that is supreme to-day is, that what vital force or energy in which God produces supernatural effects through an intensification of the legitimate agencies employed in his church for the salvation of men.

Those who find it difficult to believe anything which surpasses the ordinary in nature, ought to tell us the boundary beyond which natural forces cannot be intensified by the supernatural. If the laws of nature proceed from God, is He to be the only one who is not master in His own house? Are these laws to be prison walls within which God is confined? We see God in nature. We see Him also in religion. Take the supernatural also and we have only a mere skeleton form. God knowing the weakness of man, and how insufficient all His efforts would be, promised, and gave this glorious influence; this supernatural quickening spirit; this source of energy and power. It was promised as a covenant blessing. Christ promised it to his disciples, and it accompanied the preaching of the Gospel to render it effectual and powerful. And the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, simply and solely because of this supernatural force. When we enter the empire of the spirit, and come face to face with real truth, then it is that something out of the ordinary course of things is necessary to chase away the darkness, and overcome the obstinacy and unbelief which have enveloped it. Truth alone cannot do this. Why do Spencer, Huxley, Darwin, and Mill reject it? Why do men in the "community" reject the truth? "Why do men in this congregation reject the truth? Something more than truth is necessary. Something more than truth backed up by civil and military enforcement is, and delivered in characters of living fire.

Supernatural power must apply the truth to the soul. Then, and then only, does it become quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. Then, and then only, does it place the sinner before the bar of justice; where condemnation, tribulation and anguish are denounced against him. Then he is stripped of his self-importance, of his egotism, of his pride, of the strength of his logic, of his scientific knowledge. "The refuge of lies in which he has imagined himself secure. And then, letting go of "the established order of events," of the developments of science falsely so called, of doubt as to the existence of God, and the truth of revealed religion, he cries out, "What shall I do to be saved?" Now we who have devoted some attention to the workings of the law of mind, ask what has produced this marvelous change? Was it eloquence? No. Was it some external force? No. Was it mere truth? No. What was it? The answer comes back, "It was truth with God in it."

Now follow this impression. It becomes intensified. There is no rest; no peace. Friends cannot quiet this agitated state of mind. The world cannot. Travel cannot give rest; pleasure is powerless to impart it. But this same supernatural force that made the impression, now turns the mind to "the man of sorrows," and presents him out as an able and willing Saviour—able to save to the uttermost; the extreme end of the Saviour—he has obtained pardon—is freely justified from all his changes. Christ for him paid the penalty, and he is henceforth regarded as innocent. But he is not only pardoned; but renewed; born again, made holy; and now he hates sin, and loves holiness. His life proves it. Men are bound to admit it, and when they talk about hypocrites or counterfeit faith, they forget that they are admitting that there is a genuine money. The one is a presupposition of the existence of the other. Real happiness is imparted by the exalted privileges of the Christian dispensation, and especially in communion with God himself. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God!" But the supernatural power in Christianity? Inspires the soul with the hope of everlasting life. Nature and science cannot do this. This hope cheers in trial, in suffering, in death. The weak and the most timid Christians, who have been all their lifetime subject to bondage, have been so fortified and animated by the supernatural in their last moments, that they have seemed to be more than conquerors through Christ who hath loved them. And this supernatural agency affords the only assurance of the resurrection of the human body. If Christ be not risen then our preaching is vain; our faith is vain, and we are yet in our sins. So that the supernatural is the great force which we ascribe to the Gospel. Take that away

and all is lost. Take that away, and with it goes the last ray of hope. It is this that makes the religion of Christ hush into a calm the tempest raised in the bosom by conscious guilt. You may have seen it melt down the most obdurate into tenderness and contrition. You may have seen it cheer up the broken-hearted, and bring the tear of gladness into eyes swollen with grief. You may have seen it save the vilest of the vile. You may have seen it produce an maintain serenity under evils which drive the worldly mad. You may have seen it reconcile the sufferer to his cross, and send the song of praise from lips quivering with agony. You may have seen it enable the most affectionate heart to part, not without emotion, but without repining, and with a cordial surrender of all that they held most dear, to the disposal of their heavenly Father. You may have seen the fading eye brighten at the repeated promises of Jesus. You may have seen the Christian welcome death, and hear him say, "Now Lord, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." You may have seen the spirit released from its clay, and mildly, and triumphantly, to enter into the joys of its Lord. Then, I ask how can you doubt? So certain are many in this congregation that the religion of Jesus is a reality, that they would give all of earth before they would renounce it. They are willing to sacrifice their earthly means for its propagation; they are willing to contribute their personal effects; and they are willing to give their lives, if need be, to further its conquests. They realize its power. They see its grand and glorious effects. They can lie down in peace and sleep, knowing that "the Lord keepeth the city." Yes, the Lord is more than "the watchman," for he waketh but in vain. They know that the supernatural in religion gives an increased value to property as well as security to life. But that is not all. Go into those homes, as many of us have gone in to them, and see the parents and the children dwelling together in love; see them engaged in the study of God's word, and hear them talk familiarly about the "Home over there," and then you will know why they prize "the hidden power" of God's word above all things else. And then go with that witness as she follows the remains of her only earthly support to the silent grave. She leans upon an arm that the world does not see, and she says, "even so Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight." And returning to her desolate home, she looks about and sees the plans for future usefulness as marked out by him, but she does not murmur; she feels that her loss is his infinite gain. Why? The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Then it is everything to him that believeth.

And I ask you, my dear friends, how can you turn away from it? You have wronged yourselves by this course. You have done a serious wrong to your families. Your life would have been a far richer one if you had embraced the dear Christ, and had devoted your past life to his services. Will not the young people of my congregation embrace this all controlling and all comforting portion? May God help us all to realize how important it is to be saved from sin and Satan's power.

A Cross Baby.

Nothing is so conducive to a man's remaining a bachelor as stopping for one night at the house of a married friend and being kept awake for five or six hours by the crying of a cross baby. All cross and crying babies need only Hop Bitters to make them well and smiling. Young man, remember this.—Ed.

The pigeons are roosting within four miles of Thomasville, and the boys are having a gay time.

A Word to Mothers.

Mothers should remember it is a most important duty at this season to look after the health of their families and cleanse the malaria and impurities from their systems, and that nothing will tone up the stomach and liver, regulate the bowels and purify the blood so perfectly as Parker's Ginger Tonic, advertised in our columns.—Post See other columns.

The second annual meeting of the Missouri Wool Growers' Association will be held at Sedalia, April 5 and 6.

The New Speaker.

And all other Speakers and Singers, may have clear ringing voices by using Brown's Tar Troches, a sure cure for sore throat and hoarseness. For sale by all Druggists in Holt Co. Mo.

Robert Hawthorne was arrested at Milford, Barton county, for abducting a young girl from Chandersville, Ill.

Nature's Best Assistant.

No matter what you ailment is, Brown's Iron Bitters will certainly do you good by assisting nature in strengthening every part of the body. This remedy is soothing and refreshing, and cannot possibly do the most delicate invalid any injury.

Cameron will organize as a city of the fourth class. The vote on the question stood 242 for, to 9 against.

CALIFORNIA KIDNEY TEA.

Is a plant native to the State. It cures it cures! Only 50 cents. Try it at King Froude's, Oregon. France & Co., Forest City.

Breckinridge Methodists propose erecting an elegant new church this year. It will cost about \$2,000.

Elegance and Purity.

Ladies who appreciate elegance and purity are using Parker's Hair Balsam. It is the best article sold for restoring gray hair to its original color, beauty and lustre.

Mrs. Rutledge, of Breckinridge, a religious monomaniac has been sent to the St. Joseph insane asylum.

Always Refreshing.

A delicious odor is imparted by Florence Cologne, which is always refreshing, no matter how freely used.

About the 1st of March a firm from Chicago open extensive marble yards in Springfield.

Disinfectants are absolutely necessary.

especially in cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet, Typhoid, Yellow, and Malarial Fevers. Darby's Prophylactic Fluid is the great disinfectant and purifier. It affords protection from contagion, it is a relief and cure in the sick room, will purify the air and destroy vile odors without creating any. As a household remedy it is invaluable.

A sensation was created at Albany by the bride "backing out" at the critical moment.

New Fall Stock of Casimires, Cloths, and Trimmings now on my table. Wedding outfits a Specialty. Perfect fits are guaranteed and only first-class goods and trimmings used.

STILL AHEAD!

Corsaut & Meyer are as usual up to to time with a complete line

Men's, Boy's and Youth's

CLOTHING

For Spring wear. Also the finest line of

LADIES', CHILDREN'S AND MISSES' SHOES

Latest Styles, and popular prices. We have also a complete stock of

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Thankful for past favors, we will always extend a welcome at the Opera House.

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NEW STORE

Having purchased the stock of Furniture of J. H. Punshon, I will keep in Stock a full line of Fine

Furniture, Picture Frames, Brackets.

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UNDERTAKER'S STOCK

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THE ONLY

CASH STORE

In Oregon. Now is the time for all to buy cheap.

HO EVERYBODY,

For two months, February and March, all articles will be sold at Bottom Prices for

Cash in

—Special Bargains in—

Gloves, Caps, Clothing, Hats, Boots and Shoes.

We mean what we say. Come in and see.

Cash takes the Prize!

We keep General Merchandise, and among other things

SAUER KRAUT,

SEWING MACHINES AND GOOD COFFEE

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When in Maitland call at the

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BARNES & COLLISON,

NEW POINT.

NICK STOCK,

THE TAILOR,

OREGON, MO.

New Fall Stock of Casimires, Cloths, and Trimmings now on my table. Wedding outfits a Specialty. Perfect fits are guaranteed and only first-class goods and trimmings used.

The February number of Brainard's Musical World, is out and on our table, and is one of the most attractive numbers of this popular monthly we have ever seen. The Musical World is the oldest and most successful musical magazine in the country, and is now in the nineteenth year of its existence. Each number seems an improvement on the last and certainly no musical person can afford to lose the feast of new music and valuable musical information each issue brings its subscribers. The February number consists of forty-four pages—twenty of which are music. The nine pieces of music in this number would alone cost in the usual sheet form about \$2.50. The music consists of the following: "My Rose from Angel Mother's Grave," new song and chorus; "Golden Days," ballad; "The Story by the Stream," ballad; "Heed and Toe Polka," "One Little Word," for piano; "Storm Gallopade," piano duet, and three beautiful hymn tunes, all new and by the best composers. Send 15 cents for this number or, \$1.50 for a year's subscription to the publishers S. Brainard's Sons, Cleveland, Ohio, who will also mail their catalogue of over 20,000 musical publications free to any one writing for it.

The United States Fish Commissioner is engaged in despoiting 6,000,000 white fish spawn at different points in Lake Michigan.

We should not suffer from a Cough, when a few doses of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral will cure. Time, money, comfort, health, all are saved by it.

The Northern Transits Company has begun in Milwaukee, a \$500,000 breach of contract damage suit against the Grand Trunk Railroad.

Shiloh's Cure Will immediately relieve a Croup, Whooping cough and Bronchitis.

General Sherman left the 1st of March for an eight or ten weeks tour of the departments of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Why Will you cough when Shiloh's Cure will give immediate relief. Price 10 cts. 50 cts. and \$1.

Rhennie Hopp, of Hamilton, O., a summatist, while walking about the house in her sleep, fell down a flight of stairs and was killed.

Shiloh's Catarrh Remedy—a positive cure for Catarrh, Diphtheria and Canker Mouth.

At Cartersville, near Atlanta, a boiler of the Georgia Car Works exploded, killing six men (all colored), and fatally wounding three others.

A Steamer on her way to Philadelphia, has on board 320 Russian refugees.

Sleepless Nights, made miserable by that terrible cough. Shiloh's Cure is the remedy for you.

Camel coat has been discovered in Marion County, Iowa.

For Lung Plaster, Side or Chest use Shiloh's Plaster. Price 25 cents.

At Elk Mound, Wis., two men were killed by the explosion of a saw-mill boiler.

Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure is sold by us on a guarantee. It cures consumption.

At Portland, Ky., a distillery boiler exploded, seriously scalding the engineer.

That Hacking Cough can be so quickly cured by Shiloh's Cure. We guarantee it.

The Virginia Roadsters are again on top, having been reinforced by a deserter from the enemy.

Liver Complaint? Shiloh's Vitalizer is guaranteed to cure you.

About eighty men are supposed to have lost their lives in the latest English colliery explosion.

Croup, Whooping Cough and Bronchitis immediately relieved by Shiloh's Cure.

Two rival editors at Guadalajara, Mexico, fought a duel, firing and falling dead simultaneously.

Mothers Read This.—"My wife and daughter have both been afflicted for several years with a terrible female complaint which kept them prostrated for months at a time. My wife had falling of the womb and leucorrhoea, with extreme nervousness, loss of appetite and general debility, while my daughter had what is termed chlorosis, or green sickness, which affected every organ of the body, becoming pale, feeble, emaciated, and unfit for any duty of life. I spent hundreds of dollars for doctors and patent medicines, without effect for good. I was advised to try Dr. Dromgold's English Female Tonic, and to my great delight, this tonic bottles cured them sound and well. This speaks Mr. Arch Speers, of Mississippi.

The ice has gorged in the Hudson, below Albany, ice cellars and stores, and causing heavy loss.

Constipation is disease-matter to all human beings. The rich and poor, the old and young, male and female are its regular victims. At the bedside the physician's first question is, "how are your bowels?" This condition has many causes, and leads to many diseases, as follows: Indigestion, acid stomach, heartburn, fevers, biliousness, sick headache, torpidity of the liver, colic, inflammatory diseases, nervousness, loss of appetite, etc., etc. These conditions, can all be removed by the use of "Bile's Saline Aperient," which is a pleasant and sparkling purgative, acting speedily and freely upon the stomach, bowels and liver; relieving indigestion, curing sick headache, heartburn and acid stomach; cools and quiets in fever; never produces pain or nausea.

The prosecution, under State law, of whisky sellers, is not progressing very successfully at Topeka, Kan.

There nothing equal to Levi's Dandelion Tonic to prevent sunstroke. Take it after meals.

MICA AXLE GREASE

Occasionally, the best and cheapest grease is made from waste oil, but it is not so good as the real Mica Grease. It is a fact because it costs no more than inferior brands, and one can do the work of two of any other Axle Grease. The Mica Grease is made from the best Mica, and is sold in 12 1/2 lb. cans. It is GUARANTEED to contain no Petroleum. It is the best grease for all purposes. It is sold by all Druggists and Grocers. Address: MICA & CO., 31 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Kendall's Spavin Cure

Sent to any address on receipt of

75 cents

By B. C. SCHOLZ, Pharmacist,

CORNING, MO.



Is The Most Successful

Remedy ever discovered, as it is certain in its effects and does not blister. Also excellent for human feet. Read proof below.

FROM

COL. L. T. FOSTER,

Youngstown, Ohio, May 18, 1887.

DR. B. J. KENDALL & Co., Gents.—I had a very valuable Humberston colt which I prized very highly, he ran a very large course upon one point and a small one on the other which made him very valuable. I had him under the charge of two veterinary surgeons, and he died of a disease. I was one day reading the advertisement of Kendall's Spavin Cure in the Chicago Express, I determined at once to try it, and got our druggists here to send for it. They sent me a bottle. I took them all and thought I would give it a thorough trial. I used it according to directions, and the fourth day the colt began to improve. He is entirely cured. This cure was so remarkable that I let two of my neighbors have the remaining two bottles, who are now using it.

Very Respectfully,
L. T. FOSTER.

KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE

Richmond, Ind., Nov. 23, 1886.

DR. B. J. KENDALL & Co., Gents.—Please send me a small bottle of your Spavin Cure. I have a good horse here and give the best of satisfaction. Of all we have used, we have just to learn the best.

J. Dawson & Son, Druggists.

KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE

On Human Flesh.

DR. B. J. KENDALL & Co., Gents.—The particular case on which I used your Spavin Cure was a malignant skin disease on the neck of a man. I had tried many things but in vain. Your Spavin Cure put the foot to the ground again, and for the first time since I had been ill, I was able to get up and move about.

Send address for Illustrated Circular. No remedy has ever met with such unqualified success to any knowledge, for least as well as man.

Price, \$1.00 per bottle, or six bottles for \$5. All Druggists have it on hand, or if not, it will be sent post paid on an address receipt of price to the proprietors. DR. B. J. KENDALL & Co., Randolph Falls, N.Y.

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SATEST, BEST AND MOST RELIABLE

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